

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were previously canceled, claims 19, 21 and 26 have been amended and new claims 31-33 have been added. Claims 19-33 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The claim amendments are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments to claims 19 and 26 can be found, for example, in paragraph 35 on page 9, in paragraph 61 on page 18 and in Figure 8.

New claims 31-33 are fully supported by the specification. Support for new claim 32 can be found, for example, in paragraph 65 on page 19. Support for new claim 33 can be found, for example, in paragraph 67 on page 20 and in paragraph 70 on page 21. Support for new claim 34 can be found, for example, in paragraphs 70 and 71 on page 21.

Provisional Obviousness-Type Doubling Patenting

Claims 19-30 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 19-32 of copending Application No. 09/751, 548. Claims 19-30 were also provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 19-34 of copending Application No. 09/751, 806.

Applicants acknowledge the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections, and will defer addressing the provisional rejections until the Examiner has withdrawn all other rejections to the claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 19-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Qualtrano et al. (U.S. 6,748,420). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 19 recites wherein “the process manager is operable to launch the plurality of collaborative servers,” and “the meeting manager is operable to detect failures of the collaborative servers and upon detecting failure of one of the collaborative servers, to send a request to the process manager to launch a new collaborative server.” Qualtrano fails to disclose, suggest or teach each and every one of these elements. For example, nowhere does Qualtrano disclose, suggest or teach

monitoring its web servers 25-1 through 25-M or collaboration adaptors 200 through 200-P for failures, much less launching a new web server or collaboration adaptor after a failure has been detected. Therefore, claim 19 is not anticipated by Qualtrano and applicants respectfully request that the 102(e) rejection of claim 19 be withdrawn.

Claims 20-25 depend from claim 19 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 19.

Claim 26 recites “launching a plurality of collaborative servers; hosting the on-line conference on the collaborative servers in the meeting zone,” and “detecting failures of the collaborative servers; and upon detecting failure of one of the collaborative servers, launching a new collaborative server.” Qualtrano fails to disclose, suggest or teach each and every one of these elements. For example, nowhere does Qualtrano disclose, suggest or teach detecting failures of its web servers 25-1 through 25-M or collaboration adaptors 200 through 200-P, much less launching a new web server or collaboration adaptor after detecting a failure. Therefore, claim 26 is not anticipated by Qualtrano and applicants respectfully request that the 102(e) rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

Claims 27-30 depend from claim 26 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 26.

Claims 19-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0010741). Applicants respectfully traverse.

To begin, it is not clear whether Stewart qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Stewart was filed on February 16, 2001 after the filing date of the application of December 29, 2000. Even if Stewart is able to claim the benefit of provisional applications Nos. 60/183,067 and 60/258,804, it is not clear whether the subject matter relied upon by the Examiner is supported by provisional application No. 60/183,067, filed on February 16, 2000, or provisional application No. 60/258,804, filed on December 29, 2000, which is not earlier than the filing date of the application. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify whether Stewart qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Even assuming that Stewart qualifies as a prior art under U.S.C. 102(e), claim 19 is not anticipated by Stewart because Stewart fails to disclose each and every element of claim 19.

More particularly, Stewart fails to disclose, suggest or teach wherein “the process manager is operable to launch the plurality of collaborative servers,” and “the meeting manager is operable to detect failures of the collaborative servers and upon detecting failure of one of the collaborative servers, to send a request to the process manager to launch a new collaborative server.” While disclosing a collaboration server 116 (see Figure 1), Stewart does not disclose a process manager launching a plurality of collaborative servers. In addition, nowhere does Stewart disclose monitoring its collaboration server for failures, much less launching a new collaboration server after a failure has been detected. Therefore, claim 19 is not anticipated by Stewart and applicants respectfully request that the 102(e) rejection of claim 19 be withdrawn.

Claims 20-25 depend from claim 19 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 19.

Claim 26 recites “launching a plurality of collaborative servers; hosting the on-line conference on the collaborative servers in the meeting zone,” and “detecting failures of the collaborative servers; and upon detecting failure of one of the collaborative servers, launching a new collaborative server.” Stewart fails to disclose, suggest or teach each and every one of these elements. While disclosing a collaboration server 116 (see Figure 1), Stewart does not disclose launching a plurality of collaborative servers. In addition, nowhere does Stewart disclose monitoring its collaboration server for failures, much less launching a new collaboration server after a failure has been detected. Therefore, claim 26 is not anticipated by Stewart and applicants respectfully request that the 102(e) rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

Claims 27-30 depend from claim 26 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 26.

New Claims

New claims 31-33 depend from claim 19 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 19. New claims 31-33 are additionally patentable because neither Qualtrano nor Stewart, either alone or in combination, disclose, suggest or teach the additional elements in these claims.

Claim 31 is additionally patentable because neither Qualtrano nor Stewart, either alone or in combination, disclose, suggest or teach “wherein the meeting zone comprises a zone manager

operable to maintain state information for the collaborative servers and upon failure of one of the collaborative servers, to provide state information for the failed collaborative server to the new collaborative server.”

Claim 32 is additionally patentable because neither Qualtrano nor Stewart, either alone or in combination, disclose, suggest or teach “wherein the process manager is operable to launch the plurality of application servers and the meeting manager is operable to detect failures of the application servers and upon detecting failure of one of the application servers, to send a request to the process manager to launch a new application server.”

Claim 33 is additionally patentable because neither Qualtrano nor Stewart, either alone or in combination, disclose, suggest or teach “wherein upon detecting failure of one of the application servers, the meeting manager reconnects collaborative servers connected to the failed application server to the new application server.”

CONCLUSION

Prompt and favorable action on the merits of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

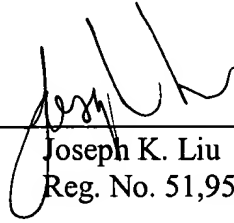
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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